



**pennsylvania**

COMMISSION ON CRIME  
AND DELINQUENCY



**FISCAL YEAR 2016/17**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR**

**CHARLES H. RAMSEY, CHAIRMAN**

**PCCD was created by the Act of Nov. 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274)**

The General Assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) crime and delinquency are essentially State and local problems;
- (b) crime and delinquency are complex social phenomena requiring the attention and efforts of the criminal justice system, State and local governments, and private citizens alike;
- (c) the establishment of appropriate goals, objectives and standards for the reduction of crime and delinquency and for the administration of justice must be a priority concern;
- (d) the functions of the criminal justice system must be coordinated more efficiently and effectively; the full and effective use of resources affecting State and local criminal justice systems requires the complete cooperation of State and local government agencies; and
- (e) training, research, evaluation, technical assistance and public education activities must be encouraged and focused on the improvement of the criminal justice system and the generation of new methods for the prevention and reduction of crime and delinquency.

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PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

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**CHARLES H. RAMSEY**  
PCCD Chairman

## **TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS:**

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities.

The Fiscal Year 2016-17 Annual Report contained herein provides an overview of our efforts to meet our mission and achieve our goals. It is organized to highlight the three main tenets of our mission: juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, criminal justice system improvements, and victim's services and child advocacy. By focusing on these areas, we collectively increase the safety of the communities of our great Commonwealth.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this report, please contact Derin Myers, PCCD's Acting Executive Director, at (717) 265-8077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles H. Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C".

Charles H. Ramsey  
PCCD Chairman

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

### CHARLES H. RAMSEY, PCCD CHAIRMAN

Mr. James Anderson	Chairman, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee
Mr. Mark H. Bergstrom	Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing
Colonel Tyree C. Blocker	Commissioner, Pennsylvania State Police
Honorable Mary Jane Bowes	Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania
Honorable Patrick Browne	Senate of Pennsylvania, Appropriations Committee Chairman
Honorable Ted Dallas	Secretary, Department of Human Services
Mr. Philip Damiani	Executive Director (Retired), Delaware County Court of Common Pleas
Mr. Thomas Darr	Court Administrator, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
John P. Delaney, Jr., Esq.	Deputy District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
Honorable Elizabeth Doyle	Judge, Blair County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable Leo Dunn	Chairman, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
Honorable James J. Fitzgerald III	Senior Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania
Mr. Jeffrey D. Gally	Chief (Retired), Shaler Township Police Department
Corky Goldstein, Esq.	Attorney, Mooney & Associates
Matthew H. Haverstick, Esq.	Partner, Kleinbard LLC
Honorable David W. Heckler	District Attorney (Retired), Bucks County
Honorable Curtis Jones, Jr.	Councilman, City of Philadelphia
Mr. Thomas R. King	Chief (Retired), State College Police Department
Jeffrey M. Kolansky, Esq.	Attorney, Archer & Greiner, P.C.
Honorable Bob Kolar	Sheriff, Cambria County
Ms. Carol L. Lavery	Lavery Consulting
Honorable Edward M. Marsico, Jr.	District Attorney, Dauphin County
Honorable Matthew B. McConnell	Commissioner, Mercer County

Dr. Edward B. Michalik, Jr.	MH/DD Program Administrator, Berks County
Edward P. Mulvey, Ph.D.	Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh
Honorable Karen Murphy	Secretary, Department of Health
Ms. Mary Onama	Executive Director, Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc.
Honorable Joseph A. Petrarca	Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Christine Wechsler Rayer, Esq.	Attorney, Elliott Greenleaf & Siedzikowski, P.C.
Mr. James Rieland	Director (Retired), Allegheny County Probation Department
Honorable Pedro Rivera	Secretary, Department of Education
Ms. Delilah Rumburg	Chief Executive Officer, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
Mr. Sean R. Ryan	Chief, Bucks County Adult Probation and Parole Department
Michael A. Schwartz, Esq.	Attorney, Pepper Hamilton LLP
Honorable Josh Shapiro	Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Honorable Jennifer Smith	Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Mr. Richard D. Steele	Executive Director, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Honorable Jennifer R. Storm	Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate
Mr. James E. Turner	Chester County Weed and Seed
Honorable Mike Vereb	Chairman, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee
Honorable Randy Vulakovich	Senate of Pennsylvania
William F. Ward, Esq.	Attorney, Rothman Gordon, P.C.
Honorable John Wetzell	Secretary, Department of Corrections
Ms. Michele Minor Wolf	Executive Director, Victims' Intervention Program
Honorable John A. Zottola	Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

## **COMMISSION OVERVIEW**

Established by law in 1978, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) serves as the justice planning and policymaking agency for the Commonwealth. PCCD's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities. By bringing together a wide range of experts in these fields, PCCD coordinates the collective examination of problems, proposes solutions, and evaluates the impact of those solutions.

PCCD facilitates partnerships among federal, state, and local policymakers; fosters interagency coordination and cooperation; develops and coordinates policy issues; provides statewide criminal statistical and analytical services; fosters community-based initiatives in the areas of delinquency prevention and offender reintegration; promotes the use of information technology and information sharing to enhance operational effectiveness in criminal justice agencies; and grants federal and state funds to provide monies to support best practices and innovation. The agency is also specifically tasked with providing services to the victims of crime (e.g., administration of the state's Crime Victims' Compensation Fund; children's advocacy centers), implementing the County Intermediate Punishment Act (42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 98), and coordinating training for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and constables per their respective statutes.

To better inform the Commission in its work, PCCD is comprised of six Advisory Committees and two Training Boards:

### ***Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC)***

CACAC was established by Act 28 of 2014 to advise the Commission on the development and promotion of programs and projects related to Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's) and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs). CACAC was also directed by the Act to advise the Commission in the distribution of grants to support both existing and developing CACs and MDITs throughout the Commonwealth.

### ***Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)***

CJAC is a collaborative forum for our county criminal justice partners throughout the Commonwealth to share and discuss their collective issues and solutions. CJAC focuses on the development of long-range strategies and plans, and sets priorities for justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams.

### ***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC)***

JJJPC was established by Act 30 of 2001, and is the official juvenile justice planning, coordination, and policy-setting body for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The committee develops a comprehensive, long-range plan and related policies for the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system. Additionally, the group sets priorities for juvenile justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams.

### ***Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC)***

MHJAC provides guidance and structure to ensure statewide coordination and effectiveness of Pennsylvania's criminal justice and mental health systems. PCCD continues to support statewide strategies that direct technical assistance to evidence-based practices; guide the operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs; and provide a clearinghouse for resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse.

### ***Research, Evaluation, and Data Analysis Advisory Committee (REDAAC)***

REDAAC promotes effectiveness of justice programs in Pennsylvania by providing quality research, evaluation, data collection, and analysis to policymakers, program managers, and practitioners.

### ***Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC)***

VSAC, which was established by Act 111 of 1998, advises PCCD on policies, priorities, and performance standards for victims' services and compensation.

### ***Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB)***

The Constables' Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 102 of 1992, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training, continuing education, and firearms qualification that serve as the basis for certification of constables and deputy constables within the Commonwealth.

### ***Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB)***

The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 2 of 1984, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

In addition to the Advisory Committees and Boards, PCCD is staffed by six Offices that facilitate Advisory Committee work and implement the actions taken by the Commission. They are as follows:

### ***Criminal Justice System Improvements***

The Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) advances the criminal justice system by coordinating with all levels of criminal justice agencies in identifying their issues, developing policies and programs and implementing innovative justice improvement solutions that enhance public safety.

### ***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention***

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) develops policy recommendations and administers federal and state funds to support programs designed to improve the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system, and to prevent children and youth violence, delinquency, substance abuse, school dropout, and related problem behaviors.

### ***Victims' Services***

The Office of Victims' Services (OVS) works to help crime victims transcend their trauma by providing funding to victim service agencies that work directly with victims, providing financial help to victims through the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), and collaborating with criminal justice and allied professionals that advocate and respond to the needs of victims.

### ***Safe Schools Advocate***

The Office of the Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA), which is located in the Philadelphia School District, provides victim advocacy for students and staff who are victims of school-based violence and crimes committed on school property.

### ***Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development / Child Advocacy***

The Office of Research and Child Advocacy (ORCA) provides research support and data analysis to the other Offices, and conducts analyses of policy and legislation that impact the juvenile and criminal justice system and victims. This Office is also responsible for supporting the network of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) throughout Pennsylvania, and administers funding through the Endowment Act (NCAA/PSU Penalty) to support child victims and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

### ***Financial Administration***

The Office of Financial Management and Administration (OFMA) administers and monitors the distribution of grants, ensuring accountability of all grant recipients and serving as a watch-dog for taxpayer dollars. PCCD administers all its grants through Egrants, which is a web-based grants management system developed internally in 2004. Since 2006, all state and federal funds have been managed through Egrants, and all grant recipients use the Egrants application to submit their application electronically, as well as to submit all required periodic reporting information for both program and fiscal staff.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

KEY INITIATIVES

FISCAL YEAR  
2016/17



## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

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Since 1978, the Commission has served as the Commonwealth's designated state planning agency for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC), which is comprised of representatives from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), juvenile court judges, law enforcement, juvenile justice agency probation personnel, non-profit prevention and treatment service providers, special education specialists, and other related stakeholders, is tasked by law to develop a comprehensive plan relating to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention for the Commonwealth; serve in an advisory capacity to the commission on awards, standards, and programs; collaborate with all state agencies on planning and programming related to juvenile delinquency prevention and the reduction and prevention of violence by and against children; and advise and assist the Commission in designing and promoting comprehensive research-based initiatives to assist communities and community-based organizations in reducing risk to and promoting the positive development of children and in preventing juvenile delinquency and youth violence.

### KEY INITIATIVES

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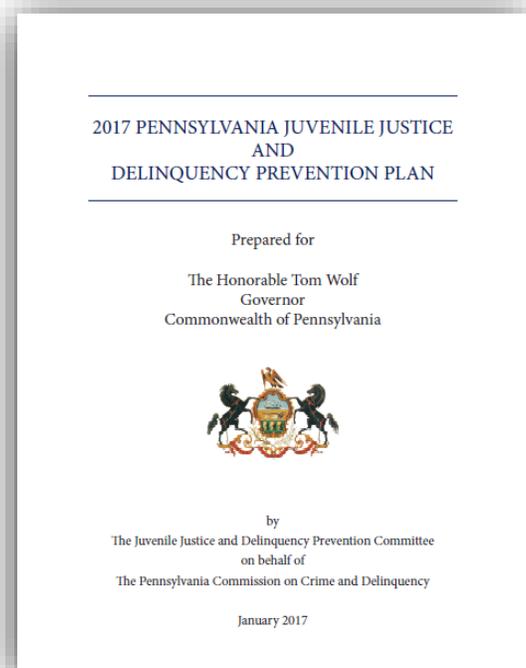
#### ***2017 State Juvenile Justice Plan***

In January 2017, the [2017 Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Plan](#) was submitted to Governor Tom Wolf. PCCD is required under 71 P.S. §1190.23 to "prepare and, at least every two years, update a comprehensive juvenile justice plan on behalf of the Commonwealth based on an analysis of the Commonwealth's needs and problems, including juvenile delinquency prevention." Responsibility for development of this Plan is delegated to the JJJPC.

This plan provides a series of recommendations to:

- lay the foundation for a comprehensive delinquency and violence prevention strategy for the Commonwealth;
- expedite the implementation of Pennsylvania's highly regarded Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES); and
- address key legislative and policy matters of critical importance to the achievement of these goals.

Several key reforms recommended by the report included the increased use of evidence-based prevention programs throughout the Commonwealth; increased resources for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programming; and statutory changes to improve service delivery.



## Delinquency Prevention Efforts

### Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP)

Since 1998, PCCD has used VDPP funds to assist communities in developing an extensively researched, data driven method to select and implement high quality programs. VDPP funding is used exclusively to fund the use of programs with extensive research evidence. Programs supported by VDPP span pre-K through high school, reaching a broad range of ages. The program models supported by VDPP have demonstrated the ability to prevent violence, substance use, delinquency, and trauma.

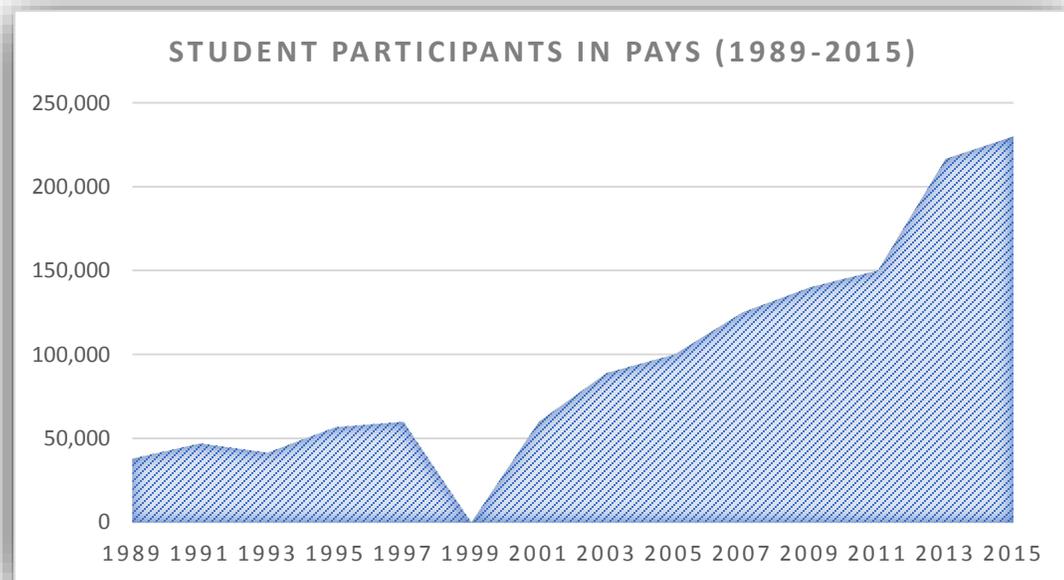
PCCD also collaborates with the Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Department of Education, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and other youth-serving agencies to improve inter-agency planning and use of evidence-based programs.

For FY2016-17, PCCD invested a total of \$3,207,297 in state VDPP funds in 30 evidence-based programs providing services to youth and families in 23 counties throughout Pennsylvania. The projects supported will offer program services to prevent or reduce unhealthy problem behaviors in youth such as violence, delinquency, substance use, school failure and dropout. The number of programs eligible to be funded over the years has fluctuated with the amount of funding available.

### Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)

Since 1989, the Commonwealth has conducted a survey of school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades to learn about their behavior, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence. The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is sponsored and conducted every two years by PCCD,

in partnership with the Departments of Education and Drug and Alcohol Programs, to gather critical information concerning changes in patterns of substance abuse and assess risk factors.



*\*NOTE: PAYS was not administered in 1999 as the survey instrument underwent a revision at that time.*

Although the PAYS was not administered during FY2016-17, the 2015 PAYS saw a steady increase in participants over the 2013 PAYS administration. In fact, participation in the PAYS has steadily increased since its first administration. All of the [State PAYS Reports](#) are available on PCCD's website, as well as County Reports for every county that had a minimum of two participating school districts.

## Communities That Care (CTC)

Communities That Care (CTC) is an “operating system” that takes communities through a well-defined and structured process to prevent adolescent problem behaviors and promote positive youth development. CTC communities form a broad-based coalition and then collect local data on risk and protective factors shown by research to be associated with delinquency, violence, substance use, and school failure and dropout. After collecting this data, communities identify three to five specific risk and protective factors to focus on, and then seek evidence-based programs and strategies to address those priorities. After two to three years of implementing these strategies, the community re-assesses their risk and protective factors to measure impact and identify new emerging priorities.

For over a decade, PCCD has supported CTC and has trained over 100 communities in the model. In FY16-17, there were 66 active CTC coalitions across the Commonwealth. Research studies both in Pennsylvania and nationally have demonstrated CTC is effectively creating population-level public health improvement, reducing delinquency and youth drug use, and improving academic achievement for youth in these communities.

### Outcomes and Return on CTC Investment

- 11% less delinquency in CTC service areas.
- 33% improvement in academic achievement in schools using CTC.
- For every \$1 invested in the CTC model, \$4.17 is projected in benefits.

In November 2016, PCCD announced the availability of up to \$480,000 in Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Funds (SAEDR) through a competitive solicitation to help sustain CTC projects by supporting local community mobilizer positions in up to eight sites. The mobilizer is a key role within a CTC site as this is the individual that organizes activities, including Key Stakeholder and Collaborative Board meetings and trainings, and guarantees sustained attention to the stated goals and objectives of the site. Eleven awards were approved at the March 2017 Commission meeting, and began on April 1, 2017.

## Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter)

PCCD partners with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support Penn State’s EPISCenter ([www.episcenter.psu.edu](http://www.episcenter.psu.edu)), which provides technical assistance to Pennsylvania’s schools and communities as they plan and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth. “Evidence-based” refers to programs that have undergone rigorous scientific evaluation to determine if they are effective in producing lasting, positive outcomes in youth.

Specifically, the EPISCenter directs outreach and advocacy efforts to foster recognition, at federal, state, and community levels, of the value and impact of proven prevention and intervention programs; provides technical assistance to communities to improve implementation quality, promote the collection and use of program impact data, and foster proactive planning for long-term program sustainability; develops and provides educational opportunities and resources to disseminate current prevention science research and facilitate peer networking; and conducts original research to inform more effective prevention practice and the successful dissemination of evidence-based programs.

In addition, the EPISCenter works with the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team, the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) Advisory Group and PCCD on the SPEP initiative. The SPEP is a tool developed to gauge the effectiveness of each type of program offered to delinquent youth by a residential or community service provider. In FY16-17, 12 counties participated in this project by identifying the contracted services they most frequently use and working with the SPEP consultants and the provider staff to review and assess the effectiveness of the programs being provided to delinquent youth in care.

In FY16-17, the EPISCenter began a pilot program in conjunction with PCCD and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to improve the Needs Assessment process used by Single County

Authorities (SCAs) to select programs and measure their impact/effectiveness. This process will increase the use of data to choose programs and will improve the collection of outcomes to measure what value is being provided.

Finally, PCCD and EPISCenter prepared a three-part webinar series that aims to help the field better understand what is meant by “evidence-based” compared to programs that have lesser amounts of research into their effectiveness. These webinars will also aim to help potential applicants understand how to better make their case for funding by better defining the problem they want to address and showing why the requested program is appropriate to meet those needs. More information on the webinars and the EPISCenter in general is available at [www.episcenter.psu.edu](http://www.episcenter.psu.edu).

### **Pew Foundation “Results First” Project**

During FY16-17, PCCD’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the EPISCenter partnered together to work with the Pew Foundation “Results First” Project, which aims to improve the budget decision making process by using outcomes to decide where funding should be directed. While the Pew Foundation normally prefers to work at the level of an entire state, their Board of Directors agreed to use PCCD’s evidence-based prevention programs as a pilot of this approach in Pennsylvania, mainly due to the outcomes collection process that has already been developed through the EPISCenter.

A planning meeting between Pew and PCCD staff was held on February 8, 2017, the result of which was to begin the process of collecting data to input into the Pew model. Formal training on the model was held on March 30, 2017, with staff from PCCD, EPISCenter, the Prevention Research Center at Penn State, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, and the Department of Corrections in attendance. Analysis continued throughout 2017, and the project intends to be completed with a final report in 2018.

## ***Improving the Juvenile Justice System***

### **Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)**

The goal of the JJSES is to build the capacity of practitioners within the juvenile justice system to better achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission through quality implementation of evidence-based practices and programs and data-driven decision making. PCCD provides funding to support the ongoing efforts of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, JCJC and PCCD to implement the JJSES. Representatives from each of these entities serves on the JJSES Leadership Team to provide immediate oversight and guidance to this project.

Funding received from PCCD through the Chiefs’ Council supports many of the project initiatives, which are identified through a yearly strategic planning process. Recent trends documenting reductions in juvenile violent crime arrest rates, juvenile delinquency dispositions, juvenile delinquency placements, juvenile detention center admissions, and juvenile delinquency placement costs all serve to confirm the

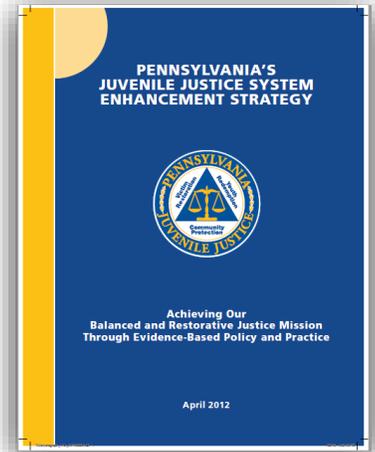
### **17 Evidence-Based Programs Supported by the EPISCenter:**

- Aggression Replacement Training
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Familias Fuertes
- Family Bereavement Program
- Functional Family Therapy
- LifeSkills Training Program
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- Positive Action
- Positive Parenting Program
- Project Towards No Drug Abuse
- Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies
- Strengthening Families Program: For Parents & Youth 10-14
- Strong African American Families
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- The Incredible Years
- Treatment Foster Care Oregon (formerly Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care)

efficacy of the evidence-based practices that now form the foundation of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system. More information on JJSES can be found in the [JJSES Monograph](#) on PCCD’s website.

### **Juveniles Held (JHELD)**

In FY15-16, PCCD’s OJJDP implemented an automated data collection and storage system which monitors youth held by police departments and other facilities. This reporting tool is designed to automate much of the compliance monitoring process, which is mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The electronic system simplifies and streamlines a time-consuming and cumbersome process, eliminates backlogs in gathering information, and improves the ability to generate state and federal compliance reports. As of FY16-17, 70% of all municipal police departments are registered and entering monthly data on the JHELD System.



*JJSES Monograph (April 2012).*

Due to the success of the system, a 2-day presentation to representatives from Colorado, Nevada and Washington was held to demonstrate the JHELD database and entry process. On-site visits were arranged so that local police, court holding, and county jail personnel could demonstrate how they input their data and discuss their impressions of the system and its advantages. As a result of the demonstration, the state of Washington has engaged Optimal Technologies Solutions, Inc., PCCD’s vendor for the JHELD System, to begin building the system to aid them in their federal compliance reporting. JHELD could be adopted, moving forward, as a model compliance monitoring system for other states.

### **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**

PCCD is utilizing Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funds to specifically address DMC, which refers to the unequal number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Reducing DMC is a core requirement of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, which requires all states to identify, assess and implement intervention strategies to reduce DMC.

During FY16-17, PCCD funded two statewide DMC initiatives and 11 local DMC projects. PCCD also began work on revising its existing DMC plan by targeting decision points made during the arrest process, and identifying and developing resources for law enforcement to access to divert appropriate youth from further penetration into the formal juvenile justice system.

### **Second Chance Act Reentry Program**

In 2016, PCCD was one of three states selected to receive federal US Department of Justice funding for the Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Juveniles in Placement. The purpose of the Second Chance program is to improve outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system as well as decrease recidivism among a reentry population of offenders. The award from the Department of Justice enables PCCD to launch this pilot, and based on its success, implement a comprehensive statewide plan for juvenile offender reentry that aligns with the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.

The \$1 million, 24-month project, officially began on January 1, 2017. It is designed as a pilot with the juvenile probation departments in Allegheny, Berks, Lehigh and Philadelphia Counties, plus an evaluation component through the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine. Counties will use the funds to enhance their existing reentry services for youth returning to their communities from residential placement facilities in such areas as educational advancement, vocational training, family engagement, and acquiring and retaining employment. Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh will measure outcomes.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

KEY INITIATIVES

FISCAL YEAR  
2016/17



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

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PCCD is tasked by statute with coordinating the functions of the criminal justice system so that it runs more efficiently and effectively, and makes full and effective use of the resources affecting State and local criminal justice systems. To that end, PCCD provides planning assistance, promotes digital technology, funds innovative projects, supports the development and implementation of best practices, coordinates information sharing, and facilitates collaboration between and among key criminal justice stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth.

There are multiple advisory committees responsible for addressing criminal justice initiatives within PCCD. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) focuses on the development of long-range strategies and plans for the system as a whole, and sets priorities for justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams. The Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) coordinates statewide strategies that direct technical assistance to evidence-based practices; guides the operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs; and provides a clearinghouse for resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse. Finally, the Research, Evaluation, and Data Analysis Advisory Committee (REDAAC) promotes effectiveness of justice programs in Pennsylvania by providing quality research, evaluation, data collection, and analysis to policymakers, program managers, and practitioners.

In terms of training, the Constables' Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 102 of 1992, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training, continuing education, and firearms qualification that serve as the basis for certification of constables and deputy constables within the Commonwealth. The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board, which was established by Act 2 of 1984, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

### KEY INITIATIVES

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#### *Collaboration and Planning Assistance*

##### Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs)

CJABs, which are boards comprised of criminal justice stakeholders from various disciplines within a county, are the primary means of achieving PCCD's goal of improving county justice systems. CJABs use a collaborative approach to formulate justice planning and innovative problem solving. PCCD assists CJABs in every phase of development, including providing start-up grants, strategic planning assistance, and project implementation support. Currently, 66 counties in Pennsylvania have an active CJAB meeting PCCD's minimum operating standards. A [map of those counties](#), their CJAB contact information, and copies of publicly available county strategic plans and reentry plans can be found on PCCD's website.

To promote CJABs and their use, PCCD hosts an annual conference to provide information on timely issues that all counties are experiencing. The 2017 CJAB Conference "Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" was held on April 4-5, 2017 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA, and attracted over 300 participants.

## Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)

In late 2015, Pennsylvania was selected by the US Department of Justice, PEW Foundation, and the Council of State Governments (CSG) to participate in a second round of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), which seeks to reduce the number of justice-involved persons in the criminal justice system while simultaneously reducing crime. This Phase 2 experience was predicated on Pennsylvania's participation in JRI in 2012, which focused on back-end drivers to the criminal justice system (i.e., technical parole violators), and resulted in comprehensive legislation reforming corrections and parole processes.



In early 2016, Phase 2 was initiated with the development of a large stakeholder workgroup established by Governor Tom Wolf, and co-headed by Commission Chair Josh Shapiro and Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel. The work group met over the course of the year to review relevant criminal justice system data, analyze the effectiveness of current programs and policies, and make suggestions for reform. A final report was adopted in December 2016 with extensive recommendations to reform the criminal justice system. Accompanying draft legislation was developed during the first half of 2017. More

information on JRI can be found on PCCD's website on the [JRI webpage](#).

## Reentry Programs

In 2011, PCCD established the Community Revitalization through Reentry Unit under OCJSI. The work of the Units' Reentry Coordinator is to ensure linkages and collaboration among community and faith-based service providers with county planners around reentry efforts.

To expand upon their strategic plans, CJABs are now using the data provided by federal, state, and local jails to create reentry plans as a component of the comprehensive strategic plan. CJABs task a reentry subcommittee to assess local offender reentry services and providers; identify gaps; and create strategies complete with objectives/goals that address, housing, drug, alcohol and other drug treatment, mental health treatment, education needs, unemployment and skill building needs, and other social/behavioral issues for returning citizens. To date, 23 counties have reentry sub-committees or coalitions. A map of county CJABs with established Reentry Plans can be found on PCCD's website on the [CJAB Contact map](#).

To support the counties and their CJABS and Reentry Coalitions, PCCD hosted a Reentry Workshop. The workshop was held on September 27, 2016 at the Days Inn Conference Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA, and attracted over 150 participants representing 42 counties.

In early 2017, Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro convened the Pennsylvania Reentry Council, which is tasked with the sole purpose of exploring all the issues related to offender reentry and making recommendations to improve the system. PCCD is a key participant in the Council's proceedings.



## ***Addressing Substance Abuse and Mental Health***

### **Efforts to Combat the Heroin Epidemic**

Over the past few years, the level of heroin and opioid prescription drug abuse has skyrocketed throughout Pennsylvania. As a public health crisis and a public safety threat, PCCD has partnered with the PA Departments of Human Services (DHS), Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), and Health (DOH) to address this epidemic.

PCCD continued its partnership with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA) to make medication collection boxes available throughout the state and to provide limited amounts of naloxone for local law enforcement officers. PCCD also continued to support Naloxone training through the PA Virtual Training Network (PAVTN).

In addition, PCCD continued throughout FY16-17 to support its contract with the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, Program Evaluation Research Unit (PERU), for the development of an Opioid Overdose Reduction Technical Assistance Center (TAC). The TAC works with counties in developing strategies to reduce opioid addiction and overdoses in their communities.

During FY16-17, PERU worked with 35 counties to provide technical assistance in establishing and/or supporting overdose prevention coalitions within those counties. The EPISCenter (see Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention section) is also coordinating efforts with PERU on planning and prevention strategies.

The TAC continues to actively seek to onboard additional counties throughout the Commonwealth and will continue to provide current counties with services and guidance that help counties to move towards their ideal visions of eliminating stigma and overdose death in their counties. More information about PERU can be found on their website, [www.overdosefreepa.org](http://www.overdosefreepa.org).



In addition to the JRI project with CSG and PEW, PCCD was also awarded \$1.75 million in federal JRI funds in late 2015 to support a Pretrial Drug and Alcohol Treatment pilot project. This project seeks to reduce the front-end movement of individuals into the prison population, thereby lessening the recidivism rate, decreasing the cost of corrections, increasing access to drug/alcohol treatment and mental health services, while simultaneously promoting public safety. Using these funds, PCCD selected seven counties during FY16-17 to participate in the pilot project (\$1.63 million in total). Funding was used to support pretrial drug and alcohol treatment programs for individuals charged with certain crimes prior to their trial and sentencing. PCCD researchers will track these offenders' recidivism rates throughout the process, with the expectation that starting treatment earlier in the criminal justice process yields more successful outcomes.

### **County Intermediate Punishment (CIP)**

Established by 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 98, County Intermediate Punishment (CIP) is a diversionary sentencing program specifically for certain non-violent offenders as an alternative to incarceration. For FY16-17, PCCD received \$18.1 million in state appropriations for the CIP program, which was distributed to

55 applicants representing 59 counties throughout the state for a two-year grant award. In order to be eligible for the program, all offenders undergo a diagnostic assessment for drug and alcohol dependency. In FY16-17, PCCD expanded the use of the funds to include individuals that would otherwise be sentenced to a period of incarceration under Level 2 of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines. In an effort to ensure that these funds will support the target population, funds are made available to counties who are currently using a risk and needs assessment tool.

As part of PCCD's commitment to monitoring the effectiveness of state programming, PCCD tracks the outcomes of CIP funding through the County Intermediate Punishment Program (CIPP) system, which is a web-based application used by the counties receiving CIP grants to track participant intake and outcome information. PCCD staff utilize the data provided to produce annual reports on the effectiveness and cost savings achieved with the program and track offender recidivism outcomes.

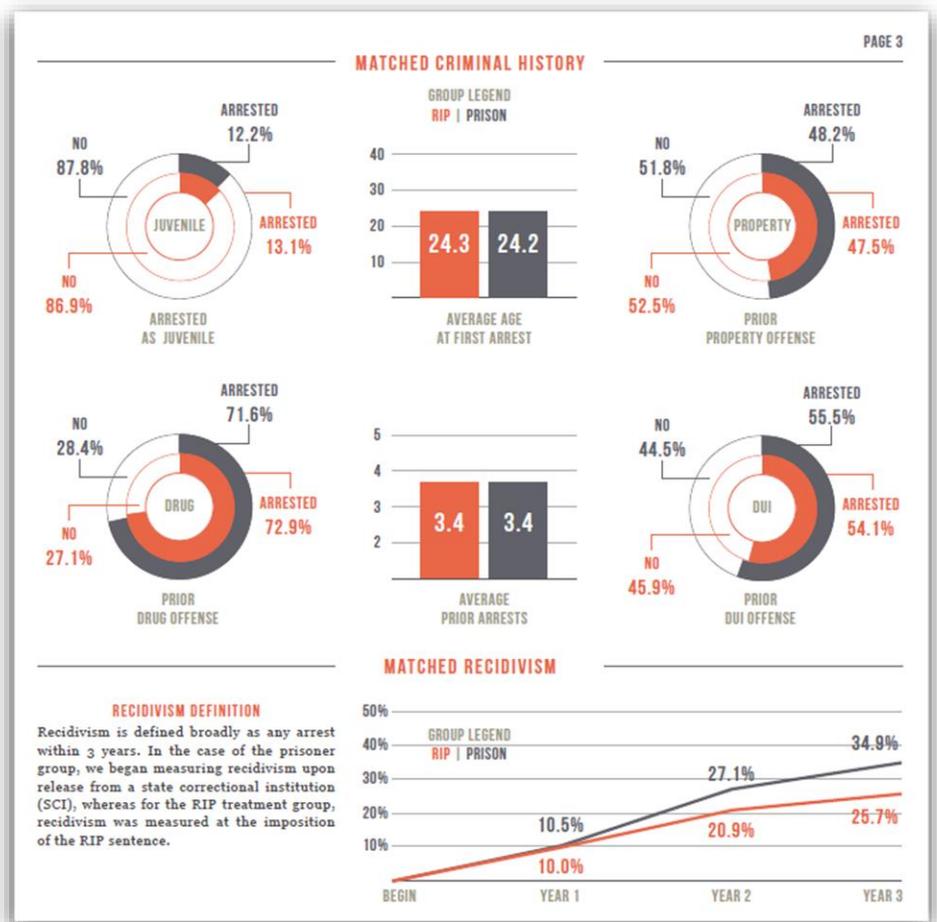
In FY 2016/17, 15,132 offenders were served through PCCD funding, which supported drug and alcohol treatment, assessment, evaluation, case management, and supervision services related to CIP activities. Ultimately, participants in the program result in 127,731 of jail days averted with 83% of all offenders successfully completing program requirements.

To further analyze outcomes, PCCD performed a detailed evaluation on a sample subset of the CIP program (i.e., CIP with a drug and alcohol restrictive intermediate punishment component (D&A RIP) in FY16-17, and presented the findings in June 2017. The [Diversion v. Incarceration Study](#) (see chart above) indicated that individuals that undergo CIP with a D&A RIP component have better outcomes, long-term, than individuals sentenced solely to incarceration.

To further improve data collection, PCCD also provided three regional training sessions for county probation and practitioners in the utilization of the County Intermediate Punishment Programs (CIPP) Data Collection System. The trainings were held in Harrisburg, Lock Haven, and Indiana County on May 17, May 23 and May 24. A total of 70 individuals participated in the one-day training sessions.

### **Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction (SAEDR)**

The Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Act (Act 198 of 2002) requires PCCD to annually administer grants to support interventions, planning, public media awareness and education campaigns that prevent substance abuse.





In FY16-17, \$3.5 million was allocated to 24 applicants through multiple competitive solicitations released throughout the fiscal year. \$480,000 in funds were used to support 11 Communities-That-Care sites (see page 11 for more information) and three projects totaling \$845,000 were awarded to educate employers, unions, and employees about the dangers about substance use in the workplace and provide comprehensive drug-free workplace programs and technical resources for businesses, including, but not limited to, training for working parents to keep their children drug-free.

Eight projects totaling \$940,772 were also awarded to support implementation activities identified through a strategic planning process by a collaborative body, such as a County Overdose Coalition or a County Overdose Task Force, and to provide research-based approaches to prevention, intervention, training, treatment and education services to reduce substance abuse or to provide resources to assist families in accessing these services.

### **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)**

PCCD received \$348,774 in Federal FY16-17 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) funds to support the expansion of Vivitrol Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals returning to the community from state incarceration. Vivitrol is a non-addictive, once-monthly injectable treatment which blocks opioid receptors in the brain, thereby removing an individual's ability to experience a 'high' from opioids. Used in conjunction with counseling, this treatment has been proven to prevent relapse in opioid dependent patients. More information on MAT can be found on the [PA Department of Corrections' website](#).

### **Substance Abuse Prevention Project**

First responders are often deemed to be at an elevated risk of substance abuse due to the stress and trauma associated with their daily work. Thus, the Substance Abuse Prevention Project was created to provide training to first responders to address this issue.

Beginning in 2015, 2,408 first responders located in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Allegheny County were trained. Starting in 2016, PCCD provided additional funds to support the expansion of this training to the remainder of the regions in the Commonwealth. In FY16-17, an additional 2,911 individuals received training.

### **Problem Solving Court Initiatives**

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), the first problem-solving court (PSCs) in Pennsylvania opened in Philadelphia in 1997 as an adult drug court program. These treatment courts focus on specific types of behaviors or conditions, such as substance abuse and mental illness. Instead of incarceration, defendants in these courts are given counseling, treatment, emotional assistance and healthcare support. Today, there are over 100 of these courts in Pennsylvania, such as DUI courts,

mental health courts, juvenile drug courts and veteran's courts. More information on these courts and their locations can be found on [AOPC's website](#).

In FY16-17, PCCD was the recipient of \$300,000 in state appropriations for the creation of three new PSCs in PA. As a result of a competitive solicitation and review process, three counties were selected to receive funds for the implementation of two new drug courts (Schuylkill and Franklin Counties) and one veteran's court (Carbon County).

### **Mental Health and Justice Housing Initiatives**

From 2009 to 2016, the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) and PCCD co-funded the Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (CoE), which was a collaborative effort of Drexel University and the University of Pittsburgh that worked with Pennsylvania communities to identify points of interception at which an intervention could be made to prevent individuals with mental illness from entering or penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system. The CoE offered Cross Systems Mapping workshops to assist county teams in identifying areas where individuals could avoid moving deeper into the system, while also exploring the challenges/resources existing in their respective county systems. Additionally, the CoE provided technical assistance to housing grantees in an effort to ensure the successful implementation of local housing initiatives and long-term sustainability planning. Although the CoE was discontinued due to a lack of funding in 2016, PCCD continues to support similar activities, including Cross Systems Mapping, through the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC).



*PCCD Chairman Ramsey addresses the 2017 CJAB Conference*

In FY16-17, PCCD and DHS/OMHSAS, in a collaborative effort, released a competitive solicitation announcing the availability of up to \$750,000 in Mental Health Enhancement Funds to support Pennsylvania's initiative to expand the successful implementation of Evidence Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices or innovative pretrial diversion strategies for justice-involved individuals with Mental Illness/ Co-Occurring Disabilities (MI/COD), Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and/or autism spectrum disorders. Five awards totaling \$743,792 were adopted to begin January 1, 2017.

### **Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)**

Since 2014, PCCD has supported Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), CIT-Youth, CIT-Veterans, and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement and justice practitioners. The goal of this training is to educate justice practitioners on how to effectively identify and respond to a crisis involving an individual diagnosed with mental illness or an intellectual disorder and de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation. PCCD has supported CIT and MHFA training for law enforcement, and MHFA training for all 15,000 Department of Corrections employees.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide CIT Meeting was held on March 23-24, 2017 in Harrisburg and included a two-day Verbal De-escalation Train-the-Trainer Workshop lead by the University of Memphis CIT Center. Over 80 criminal justice and behavioral health professionals representing 25 counties participated in the one-day statewide meeting while another 26 participated in the train-the-trainer workshop. All participants successfully completed the course and are now certified trainers for the Commonwealth.

## Stepping Up Initiative

Stepping Up was launched in May 2015 as a partnership of the CSG Justice Center, National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. The initiative is designed to rally national, state, and local leaders around the goal of achieving an actual reduction in the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. At the local level, Stepping Up works with the county elected officials who hold the communities' purse strings to establish a firm commitment to develop plans consistent with best practices and galvanize local action toward achieving positive outcomes.

During FY16-17, approximately 11 Pennsylvania counties committed to the Stepping Up Initiative. In partnership with Department of Human Services – Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, and the PA Department of Corrections, PCCD's April 2017 CJAB Conference was used as a kick-off for the Stepping-Up Initiative, and was strongly supported by the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC). The CSG Justice Center and MHJAC continued to partner on the Stepping Up Initiative throughout the remainder of FY16-17, to educate participants on the endeavor and garner additional outside financial support.



*A Stepping Up Initiative panel, featuring Dr. Richard Cho of the Council of State Governments, PA Secretary of Human Services Ted Dallas and PA Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel.*

## ***Supporting the Use of Technology and Evidence-Based Programs***

### Regional Law Enforcement Forums

PCCD, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, hosted four regional law enforcement forums throughout FY16-17 to discuss Pennsylvania's technological approaches for offender identification, information systems, and information sharing. A total of 400 law enforcement professionals heard from state and local agencies on emerging law enforcement tools, such as body worn cameras, and how these programs can assist in combating crime.

### Innovative Policing

As indicated earlier, the Commonwealth has employed a "justice reinvestment" approach to reduce corrections spending and reinvest savings in strategies to reduce recidivism and improve public safety. Act 196 of 2012 provided for the creation of the Justice Reinvestment Fund (JRF) to support programs and activities to improve the delivery of criminal justice services within the Commonwealth. Act 196 provides that a certain percentage of the JRF be directed to PCCD each year to provide grants for *innovative policing*, which includes all of the following:

- (1) Activities to obtain accreditation of municipal police departments;
- (2) Online training of law enforcement officers;
- (3) County and regional law enforcement data-sharing initiatives; and
- (4) Strategies to combat crime and gang activity, including intervention, enforcement, technology, analytical capacity and community policing.



*Body Worn Camera*

In a follow-up to the Regional Law Enforcement forums, on January 20, 2017, PCCD (PCCD) announced the availability of up to \$3.3 million in state Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) Innovative Policing funds and the availability of up to \$1.2 million in federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Under \$10K funds. PCCD utilized a formula-based approach in the distribution of state JRI funds and federal JAG Under \$10K funds to support innovative policing activities. A total of 87 projects was awarded to support innovative policing activities.

### **Mobile Identification**

During FY16-17, PCCD awarded \$768,000 in a combination of state Justice Reinvestment – Innovative Policing and federal Justice Assistance Grant funds to support the use of mobile identification devices by state and local law enforcement. These devices enable police officers to perform searches of individuals based on a two-fingerprint scan, thereby enabling officers to immediately identify and/or verify the identity of an unknown subject/suspects while in the field. This technology not only increases officer safety by ensuring the officers know the individual’s identity and criminal background, but will eliminate the need to transport an individual to the nearest booking center when their identity is in question.



In April 2017, the first devices were used in the Upper Allen Township Police Department, and additional municipalities indicated an interest to deploy this technology. Within a few weeks of obtaining the technology, Cumberland County was able to use the Mobile ID to positively identify a suspect within hours of a homicide.

### **Better Automation and Sharing by Law Enforcement (BASLE)**

With the implementation of the PCCD-backed Law Enforcement Justice Information System (LEJIS), 370 police departments throughout the Commonwealth are now able to access and exchange near-real time police incident data. This represents 46% of the counties in Pennsylvania, covering more the 50% of the state’s population. PCCD is currently providing funding to the Pennsylvania District Attorney’s Association to maintain LEJIS until a long-term, sustainable funding source is identified.

### **Mid-Atlantic Regional Information Sharing (MARIS)**

Since 2012, PCCD has partnered with Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. to establish an inter-state information exchange which provides alerts to the probation or parole officer if probationers or parolees are re-arrested in any of the participating states. Previously, these notifications often took days or weeks to obtain, and the offender may have been released during the processing of the notification.

In FY16-17, over 1,489 confirmed arrest messages were sent for offenders under supervision in Pennsylvania and arrested in Maryland, Delaware, or the District of Columbia on new charges. During the first quarter of FY16-17, the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET) began receiving and processing test arrest records from additional states. As states sign the necessary legal data sharing and usage agreements production records will be exchanged with these states.

Additionally, the MARIS partners are engaged in connecting their integrated justice information systems (IJIS), JNET in Pennsylvania, through a hub hosted by Maryland. The hub will allow users to submit queries within their respective IJIS system which will query their IJIS system, but will also query and provide results from each of the MARIS stakeholders IJIS Systems. JNET continued to work on testing the message exchange and hub service with the MARIS partners.

## PA Justice Network (JNET) Inter-County Case Transfer

PCCD awarded funding to JNET for the creation of software to facilitate the electronic transfer of county adult probation and parole cases between counties within the Commonwealth. The service will also be designed to send and receive special supervision cases to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP). Additionally, JNET was provided \$150,000 in funding for Electronic Reporting improvements in order to improve the quality of the data being captured from the county jails and county probation departments. This improved process will ensure data is kept in sync and ensure the most accurate information available is presented on the PCCD CJAB Dashboards.



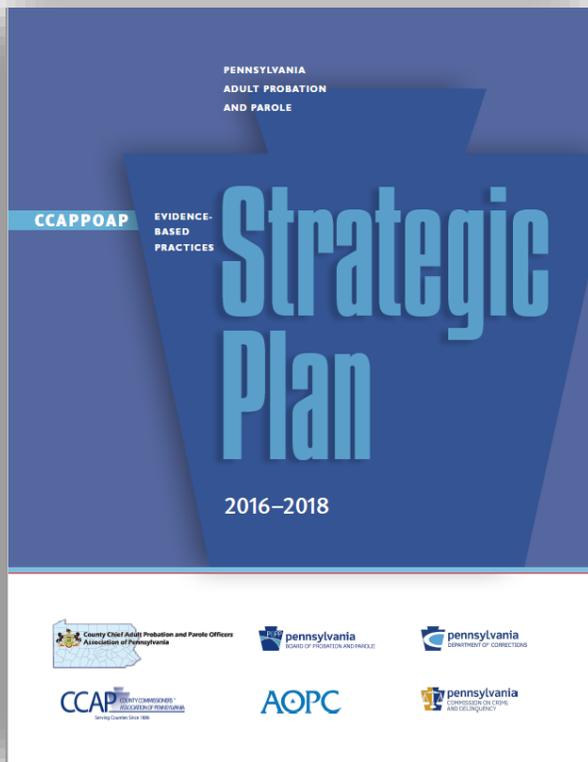
## National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

In FY16-17, PCCD received \$145,795 in competitive 2016 NCHIP funds to support the training/technical assistance for law enforcement agencies to verify that records systems are developed and managed to conform to FBI standards, while ensuring that contributing agencies adhere to the highest standards of practice with respect to privacy and confidentiality. A targeted funding announcement was released to the PA Chiefs of Police Association for this training effort.

## County Probation and Parole Evidence Based Programs

In FY16-17, PCCD partnered with the County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association, the County Commissioners Association, the Department of Corrections, and the Board of Probation and Parole to assist counties in advancing evidence-based programs (EBPs) in county probation.

To support those efforts, PCCD released a competitive funding announcement to support activities related to the implementation and continued use of the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS), the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), and/or the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI/R) assessment. Using state JRI funding, twenty applications were received and awarded \$836K in funding.



A funding announcement announcing the availability of up to \$1.3 million to support initiatives that are consistent with the County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of Pennsylvania Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Strategic Plan 2016-2018 and county probation and parole improvements was released on March 29, 2017. The goal of this initiative is to enhance county level probation and parole systems, increase capacity, achieve public safety, and reduce recidivism. PCCD utilized a formula-based approach for the distribution of state JRI funds to support county probation and parole improvements. A total of 47 projects was awarded to support county probation and parole improvements.

## ***Training, Certification and Accreditation***

### **Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Training**

In February 1984, the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board was created by Act 2 of 1984 to train and certify deputy sheriffs employed by the Commonwealth's 67 county sheriffs' offices. In September 2014, the Training Act was amended by Act 114 of 2014, which renamed the Board as the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board. The new law enhanced the original Act by including requirements for the training of sheriffs and providing provisions for certification revocation. The Board operates with the oversight and staff support of PCCD. The Board has continued to implement and improve the training and certification processes as delineated by the Act.



The basic training program consists of 760 hours of basic training provided by Pennsylvania State University. Biennial continuing education of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs consists of 20 hours of instruction provided through Temple University. The Board also provides additional training for Sheriffs offices in the following areas: Basic and Advanced Supervisors training, Firearms instructor training, Patrol Rifle training and on-line optional training

subjects. The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Information System (SDSIS) tracks individual training and certification history, as well as current training needs and requirements.

For calendar year 2017, 1,152 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs were trained and certified or re-certified by the Board out of 2,315 active sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the Commonwealth. For more information and Annual Reports, please see the [Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board web page](#).

### **Constables Training**

Act 44 of 1994 established the Constables' Education and Training Board within PCCD, which is responsible for the training and certification of the approximately 1,300 of the Commonwealth's elected and appointed constables and deputy constables. This has been done by providing state-of-the-art curriculum development and delivery, timely and accurate constable certification and recertification, and by coordinating the services of three regional training delivery contractors and one curriculum development contractor. Certifications and individual trainings are tracked through the Constables' Certification Education and Training System (CCETS).

Currently in Pennsylvania, constables are elected for a six-year term, and are required to undergo training every year to perform their services. Although historically considered peace officers, constables are mainly relied upon to serve the judiciary by aiding in the judicial process (e.g., serving writs and notices).



For calendar year 2017, a total of 89 newly-elected or appointed constables and deputy constables successfully completed the 80-Hour Basic Training and were certified. A total of 1,175 constables attended the 20-Hour Continuing Education Training and were certified in 2017. An additional 103 constables successfully completed the 40-Hour Basic Firearms Training and attained firearms certification in 2017. Also during 2017, 993 constables successfully completed the 20-Hour Annual or Advanced Firearms Training to carry firearms while performing judicial duties. For more information and the Constables' Annual Reports, please see the [Constables' Education and Training Board web page](#).

## **Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Virtual Training Network (PAVTN)**

PCCD and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) developed a Virtual Training Network (PAVTN) in 2012. When PAVTN was launched, there were five courses and 2,000 registered users. As of FY16-17, the PAVTN has registered over 19,000 users, has 45 training courses, and is on track to provide over 72,000 hours of training annually. This web-based training has saved thousands for law enforcement departments and municipalities by reducing trainer costs, travel expenses and overtime costs. It has also reduced the amount of time officers are off-duty while attending training.



During FY16-17, PCCD provided additional financial support to sustain the PAVTN through December 2017. Two modules concerning elder victimization and understanding trauma were developed in early 2017. Subject matter experts from the Department of Aging's Adult Protective Services and Temple University's Institute on Protective Services helped develop the elderly victimization module, while the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team (KCIT, see Victims) assisted in the development of the trauma module. In addition, a Veterans in Crisis Training module was launched through the PAVTN at the end of April 2017. The curriculum was developed by Drexel University College of Medicine, in collaboration with PCCD and DHS/OMHSAS.

## **Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program**

PCCD supports a law enforcement accreditation program that provides a strategy for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. With the City of Philadelphia Police Department achieving accreditation, 60% of the municipal police officers in the Commonwealth now work in one of the 102 accredited agencies.

Throughout FY16-17, PCCD provided financial support to sustain the Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. In addition, PCCD partnered with the PA Chiefs of Police Association to develop a map to highlight accredited police departments throughout the state. That map can be found on the [PA Accreditation webpage](#) on PCCD's website.

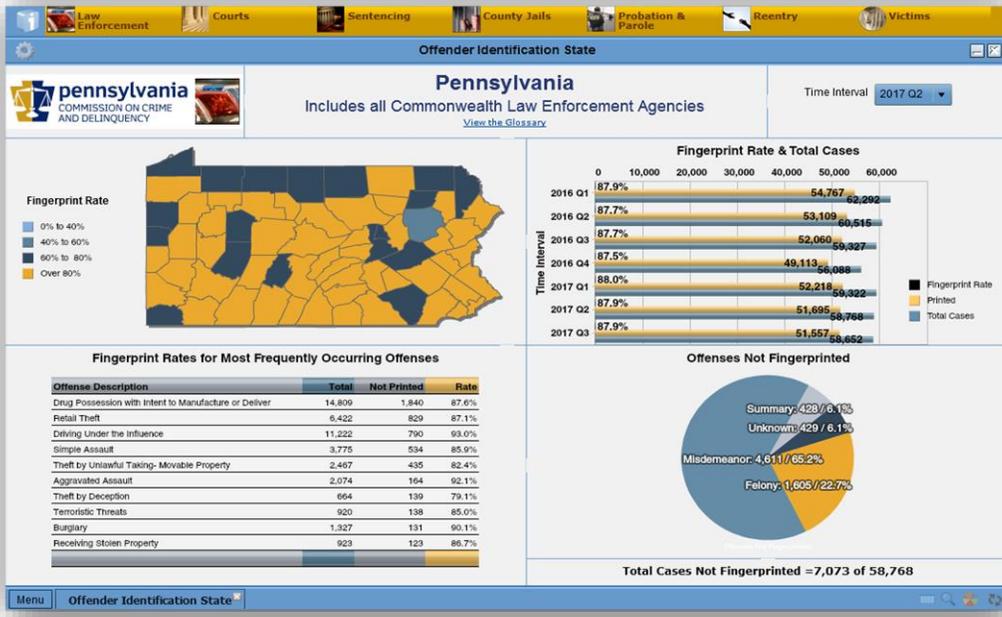
## **Forensic Science Improvements in Accreditation and Certification**

PCCD received \$334,322 in federal FY 2016 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement funds and announced the availability of these funds to support crime laboratories accreditation or the certification of forensic specialists within a forensic discipline. Funds support projects intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic services throughout Pennsylvania and to assist Pennsylvania Forensic Science Services Providers (FSSP) with obtaining and maintaining accreditation. Ultimately, five awards were made during this fiscal year.

## Information Sharing

### PaCrimeStats and Digital Dashboards

In 2009, PCCD created a web-based criminal justice clearinghouse with data from each of Pennsylvania’s core justice entities, including law enforcement, courts, prisons, and parole. The clearinghouse, known as [PaCrimeStats](#), provides raw data for researchers to utilize, as well as detailed reports showing criminal justice trends since the early 1980s. Every year, since 2009, additional funds have been invested to support and enhance this initiative. Finalized 2015 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data is now available online for researcher use.



In FY 11-12, PCCD began to develop [digital dashboards](#) to improve decision making for state and local justice officials. These [CJAB dashboards](#) provide a one-page, one-stop shop for relevant criminal justice data across the criminal justice system, from arrests to sentencing to victim’s services, that provides nearly real-time information to professionals

in the field. The dashboards also provide information on [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#) reform outcomes.

In particular, PCCD has developed an Offender Identification Dashboard (see screenshot) that assists county district attorneys, public defenders, and local law enforcement in assessing their fingerprint compliance rates at the jurisdictional level. The goal of this system is to improve public safety by increasing the number of offenders that get fingerprinted and entered into criminal history databases. As of the end of the FY16-17, Pennsylvania’s statewide compliance rate was 87.9%.

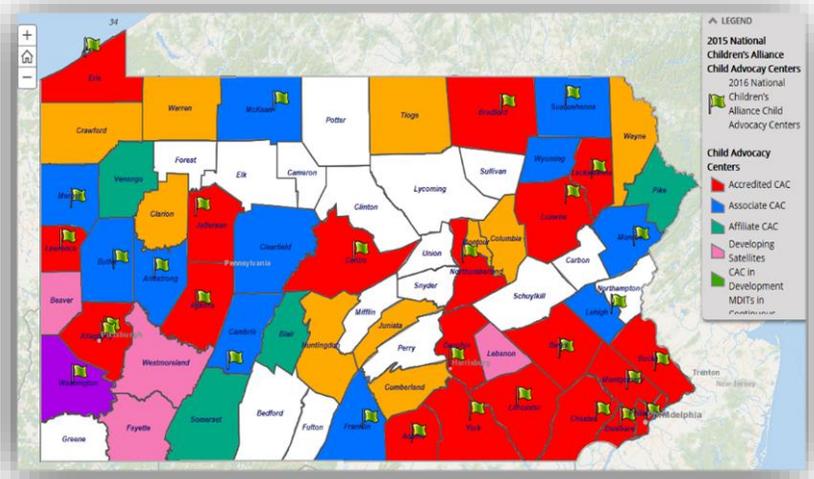
For FY16-17, the Digital Dashboard Steering Committee updated the courts’ dashboard, created a new reentry dashboard, and initiated efforts to improve the county jail data feed.

### GIS-Mapping

PCCD began utilizing GIS-mapping in 2015 as a means to assist policy-makers in easily identify gaps in service and assist in the strategic development of solutions to meet those needs. It has also been a valuable tool for detailed data analysis, and presenting information to the general public. For FY16-17, PCCD mapping projects included:

- [An innovative, interactive story map on the distribution of Endowment Act grants](#), as required by [Act 1 of 2013](#). This annual report is required on the distribution of NCAA/PSU funding for victims of child sexual abuse.

- [An interactive map on the location of children’s advocacy centers and multidisciplinary investigative teams in the Commonwealth](#), and pursuant to the requirements of [Act 28 of 2014](#), that locates gaps in service areas. This map is being used to generate ‘drive-time’ access to children’s advocacy centers (CACs) within PA, which is a key performance measure highlighted by the Governor’s Budget Office in determining PCCD’s success in increasing access to services for child victims of abuse.



- [A comprehensive agency-wide grants allocation map](#), to educate the public as to the wide variety of grant awards supported by PCCD over the past five years. This map has proved very useful to legislative offices and the media in locating grants and understanding PCCD’s role and responsibilities. Data for the map comes from PCCD’s Egrants system, which is a web-based grants management system brought online for internal agency use in 2004. By 2006, all state and federal funds administered by PCCD were being managed through Egrants. Grant recipients use the Egrants application to electronically submit their application as well as to submit all required periodic reporting information for both program and fiscal staff.
- [Police department accreditation map](#). PCCD worked with the PA Chiefs of Police Association to develop a map of the accredited police departments throughout Pennsylvania. This public-facing map is used to support the PA Chiefs’ marketing efforts toward all PA law enforcement agencies to become accredited.
- [Victim service provider map](#). PCCD worked with our OVS to update their victim service provider map, which is used by victims to locate services in their area.

## **Criminal Justice Data Dictionary (CJDD)**

CJDD is a collaborative product of several Commonwealth adult criminal justice agencies, specifically the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), PCCD, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing (PCS). Coordinated by PCCD, this data dictionary was developed in 2014, and contains data elements and their individual agency-specific definitions, that have been developed for the purpose of electronically documenting the vital criminal justice data that agencies are capturing. The CJDD provides the common language necessary for facilitating an enhanced sharing, understanding, and communication of what data is available within the Commonwealth adult criminal justice community. Identifying, cataloging, and defining these data elements supports the Commonwealth’s ability to conduct meaningful criminal justice research, while also facilitating the external research opportunities for the Commonwealth’s academic partners. CJDD can be found at <https://cjdd.pccd.pa.gov>.



# VICTIM SERVICES & CHILD ADVOCACY

KEY INITIATIVES

FISCAL YEAR  
2016/17



## VICTIM SERVICES & CHILD ADVOCACY

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PCCD's Victims Services Advisory Committee (VSAC), the Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC), and the Office of Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA) are each responsible for addressing the needs of crime victims and survivors throughout the Commonwealth.

VSAC was established through the Crime Victims Act (Act 111 of 1998), with a purpose of developing services, setting standards for those services, creating policies and setting funding priorities to support the state's network of victim service providers – which include providers that address sexual assault, domestic violence, or comprehensive centers that address all crime. VSAC members include Cabinet secretaries from related agencies, including Corrections, Human Services, State Police, and Aging; the Victim Advocate; a district attorney; representation from statewide victim coalitions; victim-witness programs; victim service providers; the courts; and a direct victim of crime.

Established by Act 28 of 2014, the CACAC was created to advise the Commission on the development and promotion of programs and projects related to children's advocacy centers (CACs) and multidisciplinary investigative teams (MDITs). CACs are used by MDITs to provide state-of-the-art treatment for the victims of child sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. The CACAC is comprised of a variety of experts representing children and youth services, prosecution, child advocacy centers, state and municipal police, victim services, physicians, nurses, mental health professionals and hospital administrators.

Located in the Philadelphia School District, OSSA provides victim advocacy for students and staff who are victims of school-based violence and crimes committed on school property. Originally created by Act 91 of 2000, OSSA is shared venture between PCCD and the PA Department of Education. In addition to offering advocacy, OSSA is responsible for ensuring the school district's compliance with all laws, regulations and reporting requirements pertaining to school safety and discipline; as well as reviewing and advising on legislation and policy.

### KEY INITIATIVES

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#### *Victim Services Initiatives*

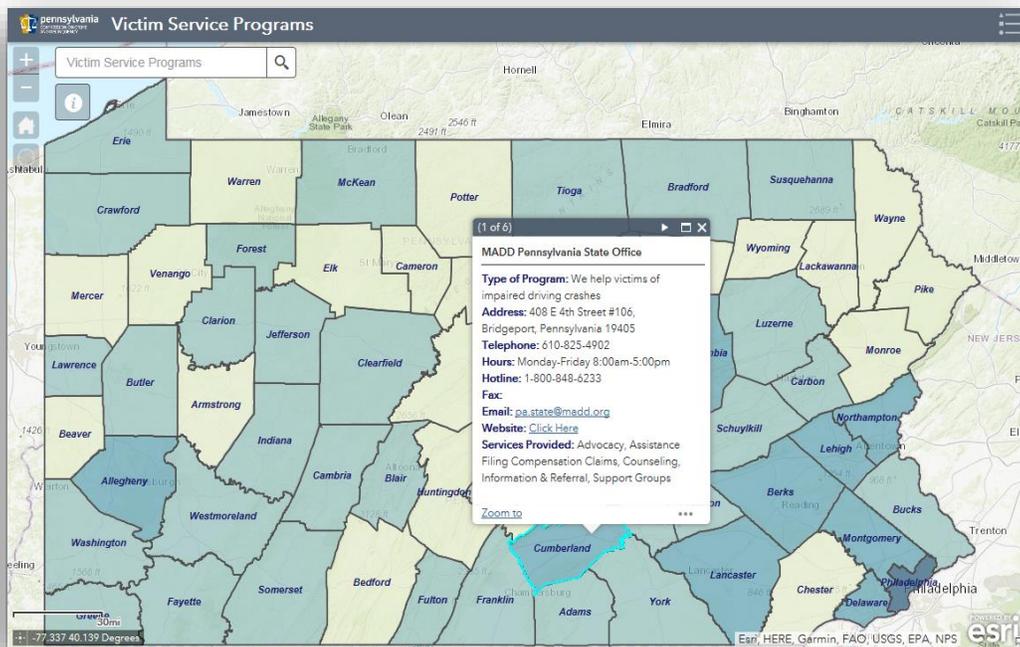
##### Supporting Victim Services

PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) administers and provides oversight to federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, federal STOP Violence Against Women Grant funding, state Rights and Service Act (RASA) funding and state Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO). VOCA provides funding for the provision of direct services to victims of crime to help them cope with the physical, emotional, and criminal justice issues associated with crime. STOP Violence Against Women is a federal grant program providing funding to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women, and enhance the services available to women who have been victims of violent crime. RASA provides funding to counties for the provision of services to carry out mandated victims' rights as established by the Crime Victim's Act. VOJO provides funding to counties for the provision of services to carry out mandated victims' rights, specifically to assist crime victims whose offenders were under the age of 18. Collectively, these funding streams

amount to over \$89.3 million in state and federal funds for victim service programs for FY16-17. Approximately 350,000 victims are typically served with this funding on an annual basis.

Of major importance to FY16-17 was the unprecedented increase in the federal VOCA allocation. During the five-years prior to FY15-16, VOCA allocations to PCCD hovered in the \$14-17 million range annually. Beginning in FY15-16, that figure moved to \$77 million, and in FY16-17, that allocation increased again to \$86 million.

As a result, VSAC launched several intensive strategic planning sessions to address how funding should be distributed in Pennsylvania. For FY16-17, a non-competitive solicitation of \$87 million was released for three-year grants, with a focus on building and strengthening the infrastructure at existing VOCA-funded victim service agencies across the state. 123 awards were made under this solicitation. In addition, a competitive solicitation of \$30 million was released for three-year grants, with the goal of promoting new or enhanced service delivery for crime victims in Pennsylvania. 92 awards were made under the competitive solicitation totaling \$28.8 million for three years. Collectively, for FY16-17, \$37.8 million in VOCA funding was



redistributed throughout Pennsylvania to support direct services to victims, including counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment, housing and shelter, transportation, CACs and other related services. More information on these grant awards can be found on PCCD's [grants map webpage](#). More information on individual victim service providers can be found on the [OVS service provider map](#).

To track the outcomes of these grants, PCCD uses Efforts To Outcomes (ETO) software to collect program measurement data resulting from victim services rendered. As part of the Data Collection, Reporting and Outcomes Project (DCROP), which focuses on reporting program measurement data, the ETO data is used to help generate data reports for the federal government, as well as help PCCD and victim service providers better assess the effectiveness of their programs.

### **Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP)**

Under the Crime Victims Act, certain victims are eligible for compensation to offset the cost of the crime committed against them. PCCD is charged with administering VCAP, and on average, receives over 13,000 new claims and pays \$13 million per year on behalf of crime victims. In 2017, PCCD made payments on 8,600 claims and paid in excess of \$12.1 million to or on behalf of crime victims.

According to the law, VCAP claimants must file no later than two years after the discovery of the occurrence of the crime, and the crime must have been reported to the proper authorities within 72 hours. Victims are expected cooperate with law enforcement, VCAP and the prosecution of the offender. Medical expenses, counseling, loss of earning, loss of support, funeral costs, travel costs, child-care, stolen case, relocation and crime scene cleanup are some of the costs supported by VCAP. The overall maximum award is \$35,000.

During FY16-17, PCCD continued to enhance the VCAP automated claims processing system, Dependable Access for Victims' Expenses (DAVE). DAVE tracks the status of any claim through the entire claim process from claim entry to the release of payments. Before DAVE was implemented, the average time to process a claim was 26 weeks. At the end of December 2017, it was 11.4 weeks.

### **Organization and Capacity Building**

PCCD is in its sixth year of the implementation of a statewide project focused on improving the long-term effectiveness of Pennsylvania's network of community and government-based victim service agencies. To facilitate that goal, the project has established a statewide Learning Management System, called "[Pennsylvania Victim Services Training \(PVST\)](#)". The PVST was created to fill a need for easily accessible, quality, free PCCD-approved training for victim advocates at PCCD funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations. It is PCCD's intention to utilize the web-based modules as one means of providing victim advocates with the knowledge they need to expand the type of crime victims they are qualified to serve. This project is part of a larger undertaking at a statewide level to provide training and technical assistance to victim advocates and allied professionals who work with crime victims.

### **Pennsylvania Crime Victims Mobile App (PCV)**

In March 2017, PCCD created and launched a free Mobile App to serve Pennsylvania's crime victims and supporters who rely on their smart phones for information and assistance. The PCV Mobile App is a "Landing Page" to give the user access to a suite of information, relevant web sites, and PCV provided mobile services. The purpose of the PCV mobile project is to provide victims basic information on available services more effectively. This information includes victim service providers near them, ability to text or call victims organizations, and



check the status of a victims' compensation claim. The App can be found and downloaded from both Google Play stores and iPhone stores.



### **PA Statewide Automated Victims Information and Notification (SAVIN)**

The Pennsylvania SAVIN system is a free service that provides real-time, round-the-clock access to the custody status of offenders in county jails, state prison, or under state supervision in the Commonwealth. PCCD partners with the Office of the Victim Advocate to offer this service for free to all concerned individuals

who wish to sign up for the notices generated by the system. In 2016, in county facilities, PA SAVIN had 35,989 new user registrations and 110,731 successful notifications. For more information, or to sign up for notifications, please visit the [SAVIN website](#).

## **Regional Cross-Training Symposiums**

Currently, Pennsylvania is the fourth “oldest” state in the country, with nearly 2.7 million people aged 60 and older and more than 300,000 people aged 85 and older. As the population of Pennsylvania ages, it is anticipated that the crime of elder abuse will become more prevalent.

In collaboration with stakeholders at Pennsylvania’s Department of Aging and Department of Human Services, four regional one-day-long symposiums, supported by VOCA funding, occurred in June 2017. The forums brought together supervisory staff from county Area Agencies on Aging and Adult Protective Services investigators from the Department of Human Services with their counterparts in system and community-based victim service programs to learn about one another’s roles and responsibilities with respect to elderly and disabled victims of crime and abuse. Symposiums also featured presentations from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape to provide an overview of the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as training on Protection from Abuse orders and Prevention of Sexual Violence and Intimidation Orders.



## **Human Trafficking**

On September 28, 2016, PCCD hosted a one-day symposium in State College for law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates and social workers on human trafficking in Pennsylvania. The specific focus of the conference was on child and adult sex trafficking and how federal, state and local authorities and non-profit organizations in Pennsylvania are collaborating to address this important issue in their communities. There was a high level of interest in holding a follow-up conference; several suggestions included a follow-up for law enforcement specifically and for victim advocates.

## ***Child Advocacy Initiatives***

### **Children’s Advocacy Centers (CAC)**

PCCD’s Office of Research and Child Advocacy (ORCA) has been working with law enforcement, prosecutors, children and youth providers, medical professionals and victim service providers to establish a network of accredited CACs throughout the Commonwealth. CACs are utilized by Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) to provide state-of-the-art treatment for the victims of child sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. They coordinate medical care, treatment and other social services for victims while gathering evidence, through age-appropriate forensic interviewing and other methods employed by MDITs, to build an effective case against the alleged offender. Research demonstrates that child abuse investigations handled through a CAC have a shorter length of time to disposition, better prosecution outcomes, higher rates of caregiver and child satisfaction, more referrals to mental health services, and better access to medical care.

For FY16-17, PCCD supported 31 accredited, accredited satellite, associate and affiliate National Children’s Alliance (NCA) children’s advocacy centers through \$2 million in state Act 28 funds. The NCA is the national association and accrediting body for CACs and MDITs. PCCD also supports four satellite CACs and 15 Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) throughout the Commonwealth. A map of [CAC locations](#) is available on PCCD’s website, and information on individual grants awarded can be found on the [Grants](#) map.

## **Addressing Child Sexual Abuse through Endowment Act Funds**

The Endowment Act (Act 1 of 2013) directs PCCD to expend the \$48 million in monetary penalties imposed on the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to aid the victims of child sexual abuse in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The CACAC assists in advising the Commission in expending these funds.

Per the statute, funds must be distributed for the following purposes and for the benefit of the residents of the Commonwealth: 1) Programs or projects preventing child sexual abuse and/or assisting the victims of child sexual abuse; 2) Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams established under 23 Pa.C.S.; 3) Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs); 4) Victim Service Organizations (VSOs) providing services to children subjected to sexual abuse; and 5) Training of persons mandated by law to report child sexual abuse or to treat victims of child sexual abuse.

In FY16-17, PCCD awarded a total of 58 grants amounting to \$2,466,967. Grants were released to support programs assisting child abuse victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, CACs, victim service organizations, and the training of mental health therapists in evidence-based therapeutic modalities. For further detailed information on the grants distributed under the Act, Annual Reports, and outcomes, please see PCCD’s website on the [Endowment Act](#).

**2015-16 FAQ Sheet on Endowment Act Funding Outcomes**

In 2016, a total of 10,225 child victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse were supported through \$3.3 million in funding provided by Act 1 of 2013 (Endowment Act).

**Out of 10,001 child sexual abuse victims:**

- 5,416 received a forensic interview at a Child Advocacy Center.
- 5,748 were referred for a medical examination.
- 2,946 received a medical examination (51% of all referrals).
- 2,451 were referred to counseling or therapy.
- 592 reported improvement in their Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms suffered as a result of their victimization.

**Out of 224 adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse:**

- 224 were referred to counseling or therapy.
- 48 reported improvement in their PTSD symptoms.
- 180 received services from a victim service provider.

In addition to helping victims through direct services, Endowment Act funds were also used to provide several trainings to assist professionals in the child abuse field. These trainings included the development of the county’s multidisciplinary investigative teams who investigate child abuse, certification trainings for certain mental health treatments, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and others.

- 185 trainings were conducted, and a total of 4,118 people were trained.

**For more information, please contact Kirsten Keyson at 717-265-8505 or kkeyson@psa.gov.**

**For more information about these individual projects, please see our Annual Report online at [www.pccd.state.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.state.pa.gov).**

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COMMISSION ON CRIME  
AND DELINQUENCY

## Safe Schools Initiatives

### Office of Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA)

Since re-opening in December 2011, the OSSA has become a resource for parents/guardians, students, teachers, support staff, law enforcement, the courts, and community organizations in the City of Philadelphia that are focused on safety, violence reduction, positive youth development, and school outcomes. OSSA is located in the Education Center for the School District of Philadelphia and, in addition to the Advocate, is staffed by a legal assistant and an administrative assistant. In FY16-17, Roi A. Ligon was appointed as the Advocate by Governor Tom Wolf. He is the fourth Safe Schools Advocate to serve in the position since it was first formed in 2001.



By statute, the Advocate is charged with making an Annual Report to the General Assembly, as well as make recommendations for remedial legislation or other reforms which would promote school safety and facilitate effective and expedient disciplinary action. For the 2016-17 School Year, the major findings of his report were:

- **Actively Refer Victims to OSSA** – There is still a prevalent underserved victim population that exists at the District. The primary focus of OSSA, is to ensure that the rights of all victims of school violence are protected. Currently, there are no existing District departments that serve this purpose, which underscores the importance connecting victims to OSSA.
- **Improve Communication with Parents and Guardians** – The District needs to provide clear and consistent communication to its stakeholders.
- **Enforce Accurate and Consistent Reporting by School Building Administrators** – The central school district administration must take a proactive approach in ensuring schools are accurately reporting incidents on a consistent basis.
- **Standardize the District Coding of Incidents** – Data collection functions, such as coding incidents of violence, should be a standardized process that is instituted uniformly throughout the District. Discrepancies in how certain crimes are coded is affecting the overall accuracy of the District's reporting.

More detailed information on OSSA and the Office's Annual Report can be found on [PCCD's OSSA website](#).